

**COUNTY COUNCIL
OF
HARFORD COUNTY, MARYLAND**

Bill No. 09-44 As Amended

Introduced by; Council Members McMahan, Shrodes, Lisanti, Council President Boniface, Council President Boniface at the request of the County Executive and Council Members Woods and Guthrie

Legislative Day No. 09-34 Date: December 1, 2009

AN ACT to repeal and reenact, with amendments, Section 123-34.1, Semiannual property tax payments, of Article I, General Provisions, of Chapter 123, Finance and Taxation, of the Harford County Code, as amended; to eliminate any service charge associated with the submission of the annual property tax in semiannual installment payments by a property owner; and generally relating to semiannual property tax payments.

By the Council, December 1, 2009

Introduced, read first time, ordered posted and public hearing scheduled

on: January 5, 2010

at: 6:00 p.m.

By order: Barbara J. O'Connor, Council Administrator

PUBLIC HEARING

Having been posted and notice of time and place of hearing and title of Bill having been published according to the Charter, a public hearing was held on January 5, 2010, and concluded on January 5, 2010.

Barbara J. O'Connor Council Administrator

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW. [BRACKETS] indicate matter Deleted from existing law. Underlining indicates Language added to bill by amendment. Language Lined through indicates matter stricken out of Bill By amendment.

1 **Section 1.** *Be It Enacted by the County Council of Harford County, Maryland,* that

2 Section 123-34.1, Semiannual property tax payments, of Article I, General Provisions, of Chapter
3 123, Finance and Taxation, of the Harford County Code, as amended, be, and it is hereby repealed
4 and reenacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

5 **Chapter 123. Finance and Taxation.**

6 **Article I. General Provisions.**

7 **Section 123-34.1. Semiannual property tax payments.**

8 A. In this section, the following terms have the meanings indicated:

9 FIRST-TIME HOME BUYER -- An individual who has not owned a principal residence during
10 the 3 calendar years preceding the date of purchase of a property for which an election for
11 semiannual property tax payments may be made under this section.

12 B. A first-time home buyer purchasing property in the county may elect at the time
13 of transfer of the property to pay the county and the state real property taxes due on the property
14 under a semiannual payment schedule provided that:

15 (1) The property is residential property purchased on or after January 1, 1995;

16 (2) The property is owner-occupied residential property;

17 (3) The home buyer provides certification to the Treasurer that the buyer is a first-
18 time home buyer; and

19 (4) This election applies to both the county and state portion of the taxes.

20 C. The semiannual payment schedule shall apply to the county and state property
21 taxes due for the tax year following the transfer of the property and each subsequent tax year.

22 [D. A property owner who elects to pay the county and state property taxes under a
23 semiannual payment schedule shall pay a service charge with the second installment.

1 E. The service charge shall be expressed as a percent of the amount of taxes due at
2 the second installment and shown on the tax bill as a percent and actual dollar amount charged.

3 F. The service charge shall be calculated in an amount that:

4 (1) Equals the anticipated lost interest income associated with the delay in payment of
5 the second installment; and

6 (2) Includes administrative expenses associated with the semiannual payment not
7 exceeding 25% of the charge for lost interest.

8 G] D. A property tax bill under a semiannual schedule shall state the following:

9 (1) The amount of the county and state taxes due if paid in full, including any
10 applicable discounts for early payment;

11 (2) The amount of the county and state taxes due if paid in semiannual installments,
12 including any applicable discounts for early payment of the first installment; AND

13 [(3) The amount of the service charge to be paid with the second installment; and

14 (4)] (3) The date the tax payment is due.

15 [H] E. A payment under a semiannual schedule is to be paid according to the following
16 schedule:

17 (1) The first installment is due on July 1 of the tax year and may be paid without
18 interest on or before September 30 of the tax year; and


19 (2) The second installment is due on ~~January 1~~ DECEMBER 1 of the tax year and[,
20 except for the service charge,] may be paid without interest on or before ~~January 31~~
21 DECEMBER 31 of the tax year.

1 [I] F. If an escrow account is established for the payment of the county and state
2 property taxes, the tax bill shall be paid in annual or semiannual installments as directed by the
3 property owner or borrower.

4 Section 2. And Be It Further Enacted that this Act shall take effect 60 calendar days from the
5 date it becomes law.

EFFECTIVE: March 16, 2010

*The Council Administrator does hereby certify that
fifteen (15) copies of this Bill are immediately available for
distribution to the public and the press.*



Council Administrator

**BILL NO. 09-44
As Amended**

HARFORD COUNTY BILL NO. 09-44 As Amended

Brief Title Semiannual Property Tax Service Charge

is herewith submitted to the County Council of Harford County for enrollment as being the text as finally passed.

CERTIFIED TRUE AND CORRECT

Barbara J. O'Connor
Council Administrator

Date January 5, 2010

ENROLLED

Billy Boniface
Council President

Date January 5, 2010

BY THE COUNCIL

Read the third time.

Passed: LSD 10-01

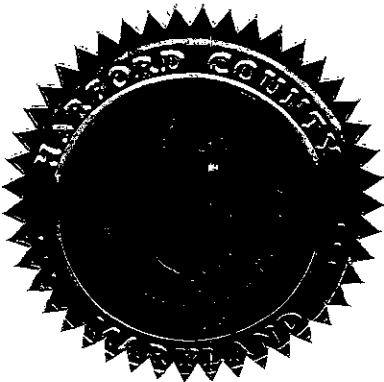
Failed of Passage: _____

By Order

Barbara J. O'Connor
Council Administrator

Sealed with the County Seal and presented to the County Executive for approval this 6th day of January, 2010 at 3:00 p.m.

Barbara J. O'Connor
Council Administrator



BY THE EXECUTIVE

David R. Craig
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

APPROVED: Date January 15, 2010

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill No. 09-44 As Amended having been approved by the Executive and returned to the Council, becomes law on January 15, 2010.

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 16, 2010

Barbara J. O'Connor
Barbara J. O'Connor
Council Administrator

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